



Simple Astronomy Activities:

1. Discuss the reasons why the stars and constellations were so important for navigation.
2. Discuss the importance of Polaris – the North Star. The North Star is the only star in the sky that does not appear to move. It is always directly north. This is because it is very close to the axis of the Earth. The axis is the imaginary line through the planet about which the Earth rotates.
3. Discuss the changing of the seasons. It takes 365 days for the Earth to orbit the sun. In each season we see different stars in the sky not because the stars are moving, but because the Earth is moving. Because the Earth is tilted, during some seasons our part of the planet is closer to the sun.
4. Make sure that students can define the terms “solar system” and “galaxy”. Our solar system is just one small part of the Milky Way galaxy. A galaxy is made up of billions of stars. Our solar system has only one – the sun. The Milky Way galaxy is a spiral galaxy and is in constant motion.
5. Explain to students what a star actually is. It is a mass of burning gasses. Our sun is a middle- aged yellow star that has been around for about 5 billion years. It should be around for about another 5 billion.
6. Make sure that students can define the terms “comet”, “asteroid” and “meteor”.